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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6819**  
**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1260

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 6, 2012  
**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Absenteeism and dropouts.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Porter  
**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** *Absenteeism:* This bill makes reduction of absenteeism in schools a policy priority for the Department of Education. It requires school corporations and schools to identify contributing factors to absenteeism and to develop chronic absence reduction plans. It requires school corporations to share data on high chronic absence schools with the Department of Education and Family and Social Services to target allocation of resources and programs to improve student attendance. It allows school corporations to collaborate with public and private entities to provide professional development opportunities to help teachers and administrators understand the factors contributing to chronic absence and to address those factors.

*Early Childhood Education:* The bill directs the Education Roundtable to study and make recommendations concerning early childhood education. It requires the Department of Education to focus on implementing early childhood education programs that mirror proven early education programs.

*Health Care:* The bill allows school corporations to contract with nonprofit entities to provide health care services in school-based clinics to students enrolled in schools within the school corporation.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2012.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Summary: Absenteeism; Early Childhood Education:* This bill directs the Department of Education (DOE) to make absenteeism a priority and to collaborate with the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) and school corporations to identify or develop programs that improve student attendance. The bill also directs the Education Roundtable to study and make recommendations concerning early childhood education. It requires the DOE to focus on implementing early childhood education programs that mirror proven early education programs. The bill's requirements are within the

agencies' routine administrative functions and should be able to be implemented with no additional appropriations, assuming near customary agency staffing and resource levels.

*Background on Absenteeism:* Attendance rate for the 2009-2010 school year was about 96% statewide and has been at least 94% over the past 30 years. The dropout rate for noncharter public school corporations ranged from a high of approximately 25% to a low of 0%; about 16% of the school corporations had a dropout rate of 10% or higher.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Summary: Absenteeism; Health Care:* The bill requires school corporations to share data on schools that experience a high number of chronic student absences with the DOE and FSSA in order to develop a plan to improve school attendance. Additionally, the bill permits school corporations to contract with public and private organizations to provide professional development opportunities to help teachers and administrators understand the factors contributing to chronic absences and to address those factors. The bill also permits school corporations to contract with nonprofit organizations to provide health care services in school-based clinics. The fiscal impact would depend on local action.

*Background on Health Care:* An example of a nonprofit health care provider is Learning Well, Inc. It currently has approximately 94 clinics in Indianapolis' schools, both public and parochial. Together with its health care partners and the Marion County Health Department, the clinics provide health care for thousands of students each year. Learning Well covers most of the costs with assistance from its health care partners.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** DOE; FSSA.

**Local Agencies Affected:** School corporations.

**Information Sources:** DOE website: <http://www.doe.in.gov/data/>; Learning Well Evaluation Academic Year 2009-2010; Gandini, Lella; *Introduction to the Fundamentals of Philosophy and Practice of the Reggio Emilia Approach*, North American Reggio Emilia Alliance.

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